

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 L-01 SP-02 ACDA-10 PM-03 DODE-00 /055 W  
-----071793 271632Z /50

P 271335Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1705  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USUN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3274

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, TU, GR  
SUBJ: TURKISH ASSURANCES TO GREECE

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING SUGGESTING TO ECEVIT THAT HE  
GIVE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT STRONG, PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT  
TURKEY HAS NO EXPANSIONIST AIMS REGARDING GREECE'S AEGEAN  
ISLANDS. THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO HELP EASE GREEKS'  
FEAR OF TURKISH "EXPANSIONISM", WHICH TWO STATEMENTS BY  
DEMIREL AND TURKES HAVE BEEN USED TO HELP JUSTIFY. YOUR  
REPORTING INDICATES THAT THIS FEAR APPEARS TO BE THE BASIC  
REASON FOR GREECE'S OPPOSITION TO REPEAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO.

2. ECEVIT TOLD US IN JANUARY THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO  
GIVE THE GREEKS "ANY ASSURANCE" ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS. SHORTLY  
AFTERWARD, HOWEVER, WHEN A FOREIGN JOURNALIST ASKED HIM WHAT  
ASSURANCES HE COULD GIVE GREECE, ECEVIT'S FORMULATION WAS  
LESS THAN SATISFACTORY: "...THE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE ISLANDS  
IN THE AEGEAN SHOULD NOT INFLUENCE THE SOLUTION TO BE FOUND  
TO THE SEABED ISSUE OR OTHER ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE SEAS,  
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AND THE SOLUTION TO BE FOUND TO THE SEABED AND OTHER SEA OR  
AIR SPACE ISSUES SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY INFLUENCE THE POLITICAL  
STATUS OF THE ISLANDS. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE EVERY  
REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL STICK TO THIS PRINCIPLE."  
WE BELIEVE ECEVIT COULD IMPROVE CONSIDERABLY ON THAT STATEMENT  
IF SHOWN GOOD REASON FOR DOING SO.

3. SINCE WE KNOW THAT THE GREEKS' PROBLEM WITH THE TURKS GOES BACK A THOUSAND YEARS TO THE BATTLE OF MANZIKERT, WE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO TRY FOR A STRONG STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES. WE THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ATHENS' ADVICE. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AND ON ANY OTHERS YOU MIGHT CARE TO RAISE:

--WHAT SHOULD THE STATEMENT CONTAIN AT A MINIMUM IF IT IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF MAKING A USEFUL IMPACT ON THE GOG?

--COULD ANY TURKISH STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES SOMEWHAT ALLAY POPULAR FEARS?

-- WOULD IT HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF EFFECTIVENESS IF MADE AT THE NATO SUMMIT, PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A BILATERAL MEETING, THAN IF ISSUED FROMANKARA IN RESPONSE TO A JOURNALISTS'S QUESTION?

-- COULD IT MAKE THE EMBARGO'S REPEAL ANY EASIER FOR THE GOG TO ACCEPT? COULD YOU UTILIZE IT FOR ANY OTHER OBJECTIVE?

-- WOULD THE STATEMENT BE OVERLY VULNERABLE TO ATTACK AS A "PROPAGANDA PLOY"?  
SPIERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PBOR, TU, GR  
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